

## Volunteer(s) needed to help create the PB project's "Information Hub".

People often contact the PB project to ask about the services that they can use to help them live independent lives.

With this in mind, to make it easier to give out the right information, the "Taking Control" (PB) Project would like to create an "**Information Hub**", where we can collect all this information in one place.

Here is your chance to share your valuable experience and expertise and play a vital role in supporting other disabled people in the borough!

### We need volunteers to help:

- Share their knowledge and experience of local care services,
- Decide what information we should collect from care services (and support others to have their say),
- Decide what information would help people who have a direct payment but don't use agencies,
- Look for information on the internet about local care and support services,
- Phone round to get more detailed information about the services and,

Once the information is collected:

- Help us promote the "information hub" / share this information,
- Help periodically update the information, to make sure it is still current,
- Help feed back to services what people actually want.

If you are interested in any of the above, or have information that you think should be in our "Information Hub" – please do get in touch.



### How to get in contact with us

**Phone:** 020 8960 8888 / **Text:** 07553370074

**Email:** Jenny – [pbsupport@adkc.org.uk](mailto:pbsupport@adkc.org.uk) OR Martha – [pbadmin@adkc.org.uk](mailto:pbadmin@adkc.org.uk)

**Address:** ADKC Centre, Whitstable House, Silchester Road, London. W10 6SB

**No access to the internet at home? Want to view the links in the newsletter? Come along to ADKC's free Internet Café held every Friday – 10-1.**

## Change in homecare provider?



If you have your care services arranged and provided directly by the Council, you will have received a letter telling you about the new way your care and support will be provided, which could mean a change in the care agency that is providing your support.

These changes should mean an improved service for you, so if you are happy with the new arrangements, please get in touch to let us know! We can then tell others whether people are generally satisfied or not.

If you are not happy, don't forget that you could ask for a Direct Payment instead. Having a Direct Payment would enable you to contract a care agency of your choice, or even possibly employ someone directly. If you want to know more about having a Direct Payment, contact the PB team at ADKC who can tell you a bit more and/or come along to one of our User-led Peer Support meetings where you can learn from the experiences of other local disabled people.

## Have you had a care assessment since 1<sup>st</sup> April?

**We want to know how it went and what your experience of the process was!**



We are interested in knowing what your experience has been of assessment since the Care Act came into place on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Members of the Personal Budget User Group have designed a questionnaire asking about your experience of the process -before, during and after your assessment – and some other assessment / review related questions. They are mostly Yes/No type of questions, but there are opportunities to comment / explain /score.

Our office volunteers might be contacting you to ask these questions – or, if you come along to the office – you can pick up a questionnaire. You don't have to take part, but it would be interesting for us to find out the experiences of a wide range of people.

If you have not had an assessment in the last 6 months, we might try you later in the year.

## Are you happier?

An article in Community Care – a website for social work staff – has the title **'The key test of the Care Act is whether it is making people happier'**. The point that the author tries to make is that, since April, councils are supposed to promote "wellbeing". There are 9 different areas of "wellbeing" about which you are supposed to be the expert and, by promoting wellbeing, your quality of life should be better. He asks whether councils really are promoting wellbeing, or whether this is just something they claim to do. **So, if you have been assessed since April 2015 – have you had increased wellbeing / been made happier?** Let us know!

# A GUIDE TO

## Do you know someone who would be a good PA (private carer)?

If you know someone who you think would make the ideal Personal Assistant but are unsure how to explain what the role would be – Skills for Care have designed a new booklet called “A Guide to Being a Personal Assistant”. This is available on-line at:

<http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Employing-your-own-care-and-support/Resources/1.1-What-is-a-PA/Being-a-personal-assistant.pdf>

## Minimum Wage changes

If you are employing a Personal Assistant (private carer), you need to make sure that you are paying **at least the minimum wage**. From **1<sup>st</sup> October**, this is **£6.70 per hour** and in **April 2016**, this rises to a **minimum £7.20** for adults over 25. If you need support to check whether your Personal Budget is sufficient, or if you need support to approach Social Services for an increase, feel free to contact Jenny or Martha.



## Upcoming Events:

**Personal Budget Surgery** – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October from 11am – 1pm, at ADKC

**Personal Budget Meeting** – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October from 11am – 1pm, at ADKC

# Do you need money for training?

If you employ your own care and support staff using a personal health budget (PHB), a social care budget or your own money you can apply to Skills for Care to get money for training for you and your personal assistant. The money that is available is called individual employer funding.

Here are some examples of the type of training you could use the money for:



## The rules

You can apply for yourself or on behalf of your personal assistant (PA). All learning and qualifications must be paid for and started before 31 March 2016. Only people living in England can apply.

To apply for the money, please fill in the application form by visiting our website [www.skillsforcare.org.uk/individualemployerfunding](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/individualemployerfunding) or call 0113 245 1716 to ask for an application form. An Easy Read version of the application form and guidance on how to fill it in is also available.

Further resources can be found on the information hub for individual employers and personal assistants  
[www.skillsforcare.org.uk/iepahub](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/iepahub)

